

Ekwok Comprehensive Plan Update

The Ekwok Community Comprehensive Plan was developed by the community to plan for the future to ensure that the village develops in a way that fits with residents' values and ways of life. This 2009 update documents the accomplishments the community has made since the 2005 plan, and identifies new priorities for the next five years.

This comprehensive plan update is based on community input from a community meeting held in concert with the Easter Celebration on Sunday April 19, 2009 at the William "Sonny" Nelson School Gymnasium. Sixty community members attended the community meeting to discuss and update the 2005 goals and priority actions.

Because goals and priority actions have changed and expanded over time, the four categories used in the 2005 Ekwok Comprehensive Plan (Community & Culture; Economy; Land & Environment and Leadership) have been expanded to include: Land Use, Housing & Environment; Community Wellness, Culture & Education; Public Facilities & Transportation; Economy; and Leadership.

Accomplishments 2005 - 2009

Land Use, Housing & Environment	
	Status
Recycling and hazardous waste collection	In progress
Resurface village roads and construct bike trail	Ongoing; continue in future
Map and mark existing and new trails	Tripods in place
Close and relocate landfill	In progress
Construct environmental office building	Complete
Increase number of housing units	Up to eight units planned with BBHA for Summer 2010
Renovate and expand existing housing	Ongoing; added arctic entries; one BIA house for elder; new stoves
Community Wellness, Culture & Education	
	Status
Construct new health clinic	In progress
Increase college graduation rate	Providing rental assistance to college students
Provide environmental education in school	In progress

Public Facilities & Transportation	
	Status
Improve water and sewer system	Water upgrade complete; sewer in process
Certify water and sewer operator	Certified; need to maintain certification in future
Airport improvement	Complete
Economy	
	Status
Improve tourism marketing and training to start tourism related businesses	Fly fishing training camp for youth held in 2008
Prioritize capital projects and keep community plans updated	In progress
Fish and meat processing facility	This project was determined to not be feasible at this time
Leadership	
	Status
Increase activities for youth and elders	Recreational building has been hosting more activities
Improve representation for Ekwok at regional and statewide meetings	Nunamta Aulekestai and Ekwok Village Council active in regional and statewide dialogue
Track accomplishments and share with community through written or video history	Long Range Environmental Plan complete and being implemented through the IGAP Program; Potential Brownfields Inventory complete and looking at potential Brownfields sites; Solid Waste Management Plan complete
Youth cultural camp unique to Ekwok	Fly fishing training camp for youth held in 2008
Complete Comp Plan	Complete; update in progress
Publish community newsletter	IGAP newsletter has been published since July 2002; school newsletter
Update Plan every 5 years	In progress

Land Use, Housing & Environment

Goals

1. Preserve and protect recreation and subsistence resources from pressures from sport hunting and fishing.
2. Protect natural beauty, maintain clean environment and protect water quality.
3. Maintain trails and access to surrounding lands to protect rights-of-way and eliminate trespass.
4. Ensure Ekwok village leaders maintain a “place at the table” in regional decision-making regarding resource development that will affect our subsistence resources and environment.
5. Work with all Native villages and organizations potentially affected by mining, oil and gas development to create a unified response to ensure development does not proceed unless subsistence impacts are adequately addressed and village interests are respected.
6. Increase availability of quality housing for all residents.

Priority Actions

1. Continue to relocate landfill
2. Construct and obtain equipment for a fire station (also under Public Facilities & Transportation)
3. Upgrade backup utilities
4. Upgrade bulk fuel capacity and renovate dispensing equipment and purchase a fuel truck for delivery to homes

Environment and Waste Management Actions

- Stop Pebble Mine
- Establish water quality monitoring for river and water wells
- Increase river patrol
- Continue recycling and hazardous waste collection
- Require contractors to clean up and recycle construction waste (*this is included in the Hazardous Waste Management Plan*)

Road and Trail Actions

- Continue to map and mark existing and new trails
- Plan and budget for additional street lights
- Establish trails committee

Land Stewardship Actions

- Educate youth about land and subsistence
- Educate visitors to pick berries correctly
- Eliminate trespassing on private land
- Educate young people about subsistence and the impacts of resource development
- Work with Department of Fisheries and Hunting Resources to educate youth and sport fishermen about fishing practices and subsistence impacts (“hook and cook” not “catch and release”)

Infrastructure Actions

- Maintain water and sewer operator certification
- Obtain new heavy equipment

Housing Actions

- Provide home maintenance assistance for elders
- Increase land ownership for new houses
- Encourage landowners to work together for mutual benefit
- Continue to increase number of housing units
- Continue to renovate and expand existing housing

Community Wellness, Culture & Education

Goals

1. Strengthen and preserve local culture.
2. Improve health of all community members.
3. Achieve educational excellence for all community members.
4. Provide healthy and fun activities for youth, adults and Elders
5. Prevent drug and alcohol abuse, enforce laws and support healthy families.
6. Improve public safety for all village members.

Priority Actions

1. Continue to work to build new health clinic
2. Make sure homes are fire safe (also under Public Facilities & Transportation)
3. Educate all community members against drug and alcohol use
4. Build new Russian Orthodox Church
5. Construct community center

Culture Actions

- Teach traditional skills, language and culture to youth
- Use Recreational Building for cultural activities and education; connect artists to customers; teach dance, drumming, story telling; plan to construct a community center
- Provide cultural education in school

Community Wellness Actions

- Assist families in crisis
- Expand mental and behavioral healthcare services to community
- Educate youth about sexual awareness, family planning and disease prevention
- Provide public safety education
- Educate youth and adults about nutrition and diabetes prevention

Education Actions

- Create a childcare center
- Continue efforts to increase college graduation rate

- Increase number of certified Alaska Native teachers
- Provide secondary education to Ekwok students close to home
- Continue to provide environmental education in school

Public Facilities & Transportation

Goals

1. Improve fire safety.
2. Improve transportation links within village.

Priority Actions

1. Construct road to new landfill
2. Make sure homes are fire safe
3. Construct and obtain equipment for a fire station

Actions

- Install fire hydrants near location of good wells
- Upgrade and widen roads in Ekwok
- Identify a dry spot for a playground (in spring-area around school wet)
- Continue to improve sewer system
- Keep 55 gallons of aviation fuel at a specified secure site for search and rescue needs
- Design and construct a bike trail
- Continue to prioritize capital projects and keep community plans updated

Economy

Goals

1. Provide education and training to create more jobs and locally-owned businesses
2. Increase awareness of and access to educational opportunities.
3. Designate a space for marketing arts and crafts and hosting cultural activities
4. Balance safe and healthy resource development with community values
5. Improve production and marketing of locally made goods
6. Decrease cost of living by developing alternative energy sources and increasing fuel capacity.

Priority Actions

1. Provide training and job opportunities to attract youth back to Ekwok.
2. Work with Southwest Regional School District to keep school open and retain quality teachers
3. Building for mechanics shop; engine repair
4. Designate a place to market local arts and crafts to visitors and give cultural presentations in the planned community center

Other Actions

- Continue to improve tourism marketing and training to start tourism related businesses

- Support enterprises in tanning and sewing skins
- Develop a fish and meat processing facility
- Increase opportunities for one-on-one mentorships, internships, apprenticeships with 15-17 year olds to help them find a path, such as:
 - Within Ekwok: electrician, plumbers, gardeners, lead carpenters, heavy equipment operators, post master, teachers, health aides, pilots, public safety, cooks, instructional aides, janitors, guides, communications (telephones, IT)
 - Outside Ekwok: call ones of previous lists, welding, office management, civil engineering, carving, sewing, knitting, armed forces, dietician
- Educate young people in government; get young people to attend meetings and learn information
- Decrease cost of living and conserve energy by: walking, burning wood, turning off lights, not watching too much TV, taking a steam instead of showers, hanging clothes to dry, turning off appliances, preserving food in jars, increasing the use of renewable energy (e.g., wind charger, solar panels), weatherizing and insulating houses

Leadership

Goals

1. Increase participation by residents in village life to gain self determination and local control
2. Create unity among different community groups and organizations
3. Show respect for Elders
4. Educate and mentor youth to take on leadership roles; increase the number of youth leaders and youth leadership opportunities.
5. Understand ANCSA and use it to protect local resources
6. Engage in statewide and regional policymaking to gain foresight on laws and policies that will affect Ekwok

Priority Actions

1. Improve van service for Elders by purchasing a new van
2. Conduct home maintenance for Elders
3. Construct Community center
 - for elders to gather
 - for youth and elders
 - for cultural activities and education
4. Support youth cultural camp unique to Ekwok, such as the Fly Fish Camp in 2008

Other Actions

- Bridge gap between ANCSA shareholders and non-shareholders
- Improve care and services for Elders
- Lobby for Elders' interests
- Continue to improve representation for Ekwok at regional and statewide meetings
- Improve posting agendas and meetings notices
- Host community gatherings and regular meetings
- Improve sharing information to community at meetings

- Continue to update Comprehensive Plan every five years
- Start tribal court
- Elect youth to city and village council
- Mentorships with youth and elders on village council
- Increase activities for youth and elders (the Recreational Building is hosting more activities)
- Track accomplishments and share with community through written or video history – long range environmental plan, brown fields, solid waste management plan
- More leaders from younger generation, more educational opportunities
- Families, encourage kids/youth to attend educational opportunities
- Continue to publish community newsletter (e.g., IGAP newsletter, school newsletter)

Implementation Table – Land and Environment

Project	Lead Organization	Capital Cost	Resources to Work With	Priority			Comments
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Landfill	Ekwok Village Council IGAP program	~\$500K	Solid and Hazardous Waste Mgmt. Plan, Environmental and Engineering review, USDA, BIA, Denali Commission	X	Design and Construct		In progress
Fire Station	City of Ekwok	~\$150K	DOT; ANTHC Village Safe Water, army surplus? AEA equipment	X			Need location (DOT equip buildings) H2O tank/truck – could also use for dust and sewer flushing
Backup Utilities	City of Ekwok	~\$200K	AEA stimulus \$	X	X		Diversify grid; control distribution (like New Stuyahok)
Bulk Fuel	City of Ekwok		Coast Guard USDA Denali Commission AEA Locally-hired certified operators	X	X		Increase by at least half

Implementation Table – Leadership

Project	Lead Organization	Capital Cost	Resources to Work With	Priority			Comments
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Elder van service	Ekwok Village Council	\$150K	Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	X			Need new van with higher clearance
Elder home maintenance	BB Area Housing Authority Ekwok Village Council	\$5K per home	Locally hired technicians; HUD funding	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Community Center	Ekwok Village Council	\$500K+	ICDBG, HUD, NAHASDA		X	X	Need to find land for it
Youth Cultural Camp	Ekwok Village Council	TBD	BBNA, BBAHC, , ENL, City of Ekwok, UAF-Bristol Bay Campus, NAHASDA, ANA	X			Already happening More cultural activities with youth and elders (subsistence, storytelling)

Implementation Table – Economy

Project	Lead Organization	Capital Cost	Resources to Work With	Priority			Comments
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Provide training and job opportunities to attract youth back to Ekwok.	Ekwok Village Council	N/A	BBEDC, ENL, BBNA, BBNC, UAF-Bristol Bay Campus, BBAHC, Denali Commission	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Work with SWRSD to keep school open and get quality teachers	Ekwok Village Council	N/A	Community members, City of Ekwok, ENL, BBNA		X	X	
Engine repair	Ekwok Village Council	TBD	BBNA, BBEDC, ENL, BBNC			X	
Designate a space for marketing arts and crafts and hosting cultural activities (see Community Center under Leadership)	Ekwok Village Council	TBD	ICDBG, HUD, ANA,	Ongoing	Ongoing	ongoing	

Implementation Table – Community & Culture

Project	Lead Organization	Capital Cost	Resources to Work With	Priority			Comments
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Continue to work to build new health clinic	Ekwok Village Council	TBD	BBAHC, Denali Commission	X	X	X	
Make sure homes are fire safe	Ekwok Village Council	TBD	BBAHC, BBNA, UAF-Bristol Bay Campus, City of Ekwok, State of Alaska (Public Safety, Fire and Life Safety Division)	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Educate youth against drug + alcohol use	Ekwok Village Council	TBD	Parents, BBNA, BBAHC, UAF-Bristol Bay Campus, ENL, City	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	
Build new Russian Orthodox Church	Russian Orthodox Church group	TBD	Village, Sisterhood of New Stuyahok Russian Orthodox, Kodiak Bishops and Priests				
Construct community center	Ekwok Village Council	TBD	ICDBG, HUD, ANA,	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Also covered under “Leadership”